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THOMAS
THE TANK ENGINE
& FRIENDS
Based on The Railway Series by The Rev. W. Awdry.
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ISSN 0954-9390
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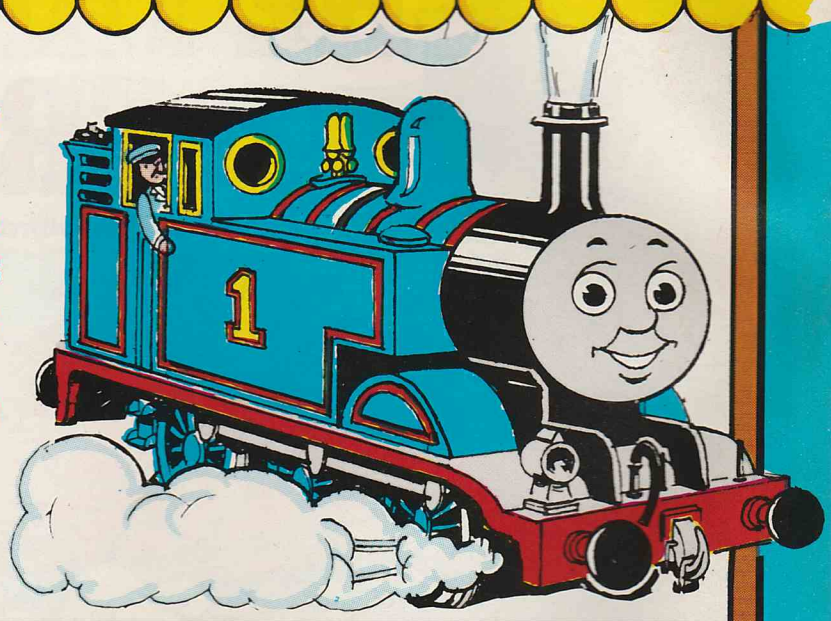
Have you started your advent calendar yet?

THE THOMAS CLUB PAGE

Peep! Peep! Percy is excited over the thought of working on the new railway line going through the Wildlife Park– until his driver realises that the size of the track which has been laid is not the correct width. Poor Percy! Peep! Peep!



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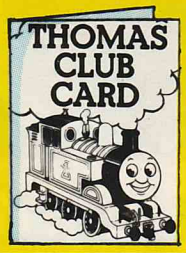

In our next issue: Join the Fat Controller for celebrations in our special Christmas issue!

THOMAS TOKEN

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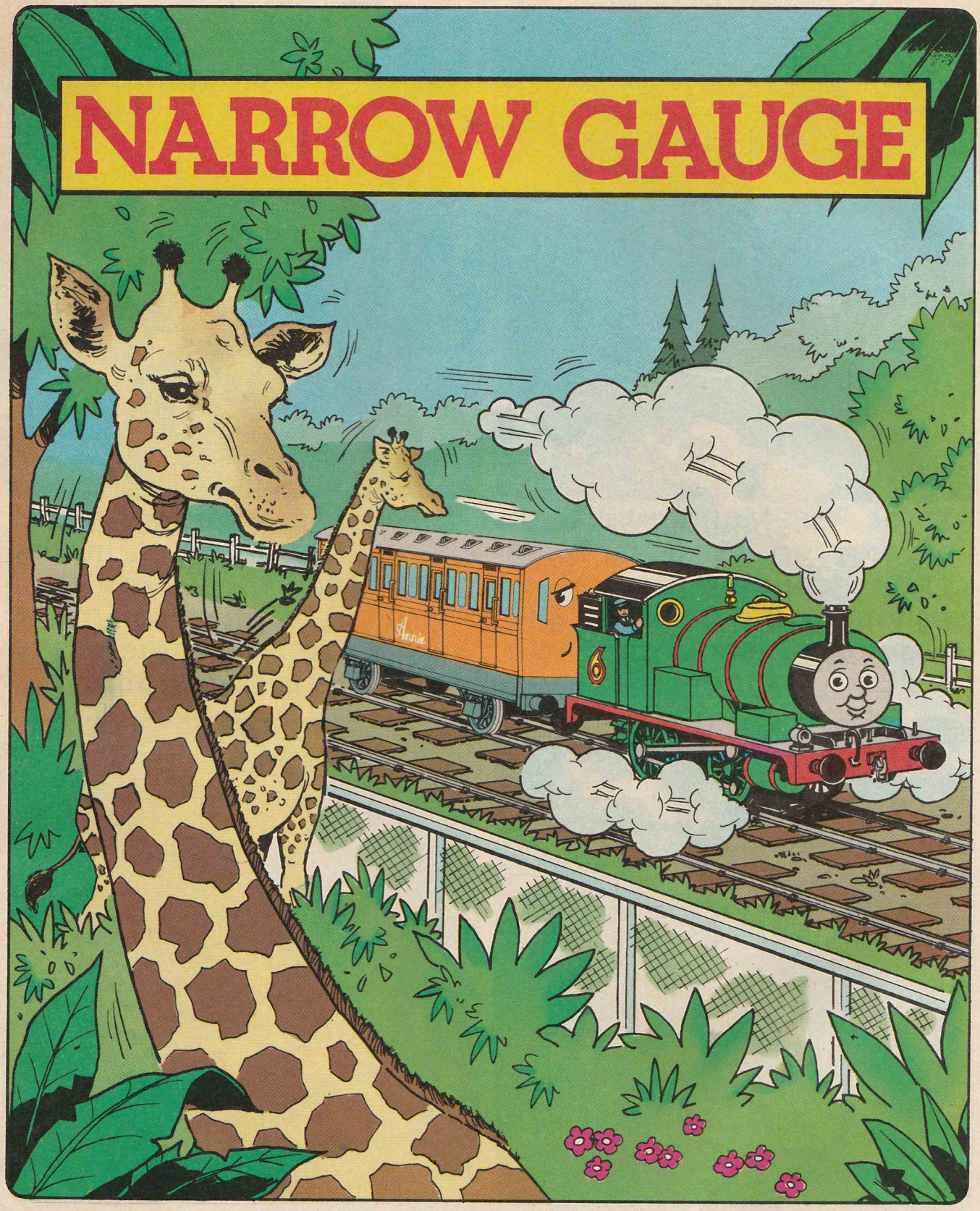
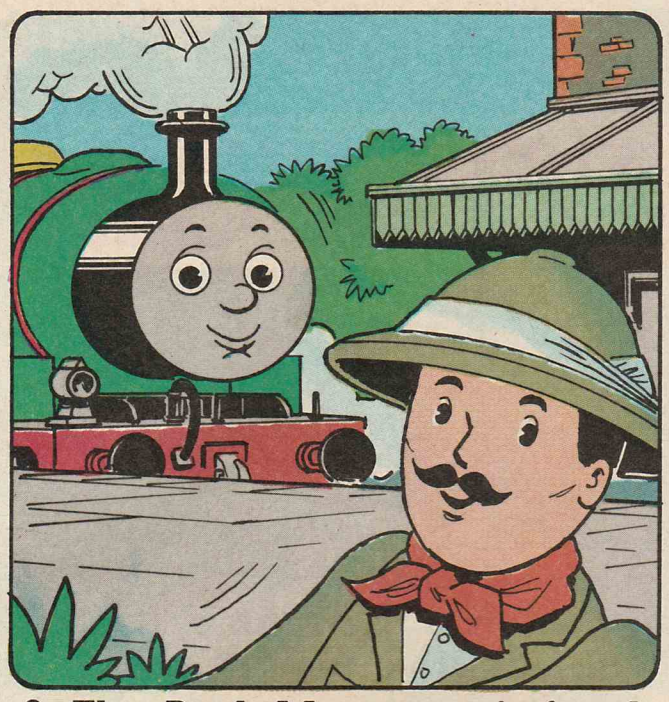
ABC

A listen and look story!

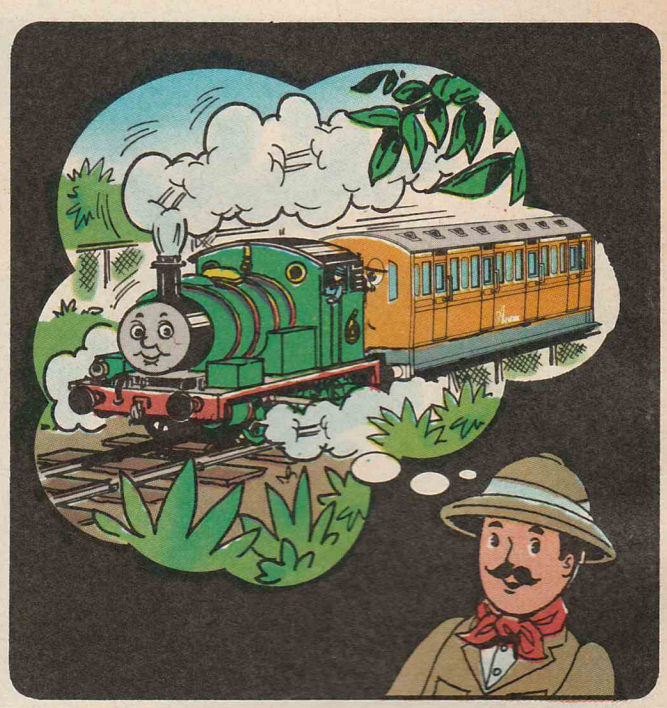


1. Percy is very fond of the wildlife park on the Island of Sodor. He likes all the animals, but his favourites are the giraffes, Gerald and Sally.

2. Percy brought them to the wildlife park himself. He also helped to recapture an escaped lion once! Percy's best friend there, however, is the Park Manager himself.



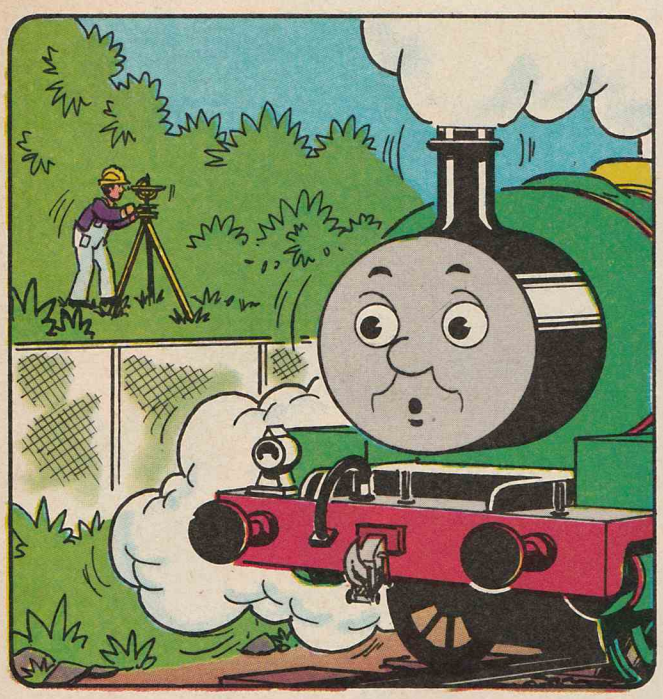
3. The Park Manager is fond of Percy too. Whenever Percy brings children and other visitors to the park, he will stop for a friendly chat with the Park Manager.



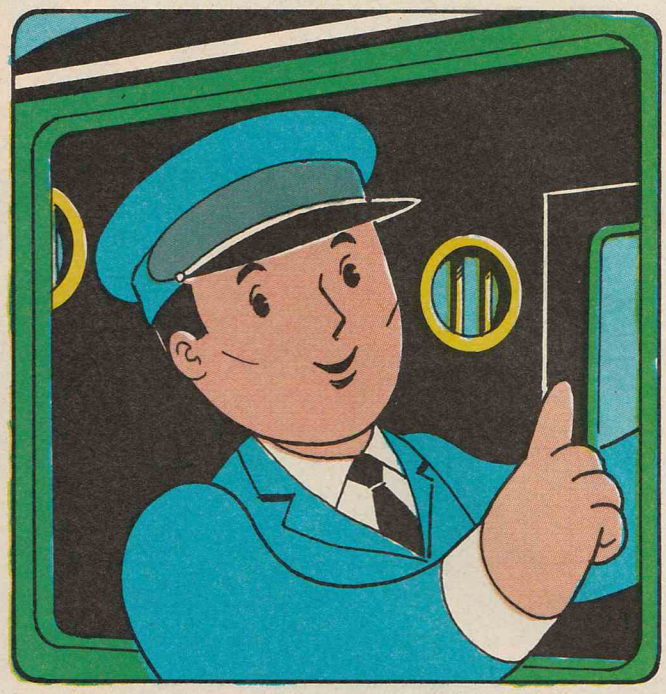
4. The Park Manager wants to build a railway in the park. Then all the children would be able to travel about the park more easily to see the different animals.

5. The Park Manager promised Percy, that if ever he does manage to build his railway, Percy will be the engine to work it. Percy would like that very much.

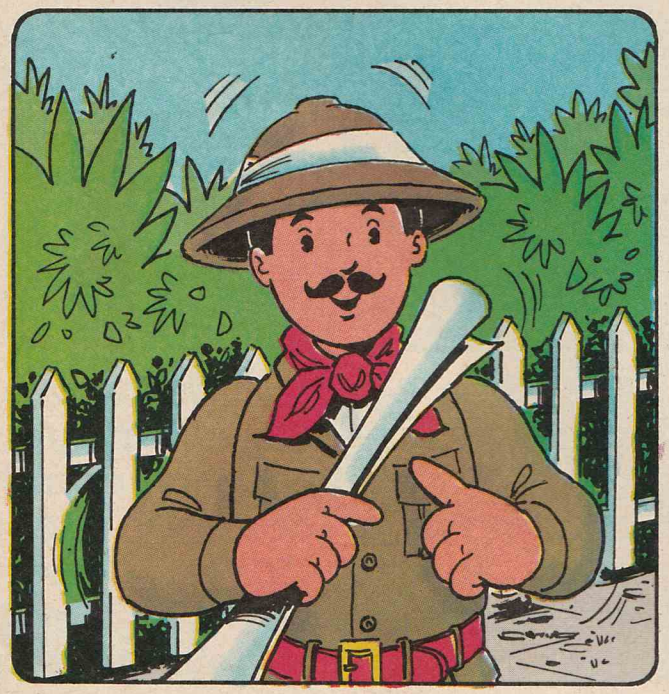
6. One day when Percy came to the wildlife park station he noticed a rather unusual passenger getting off his carriage. The Park Manager was there to meet him.



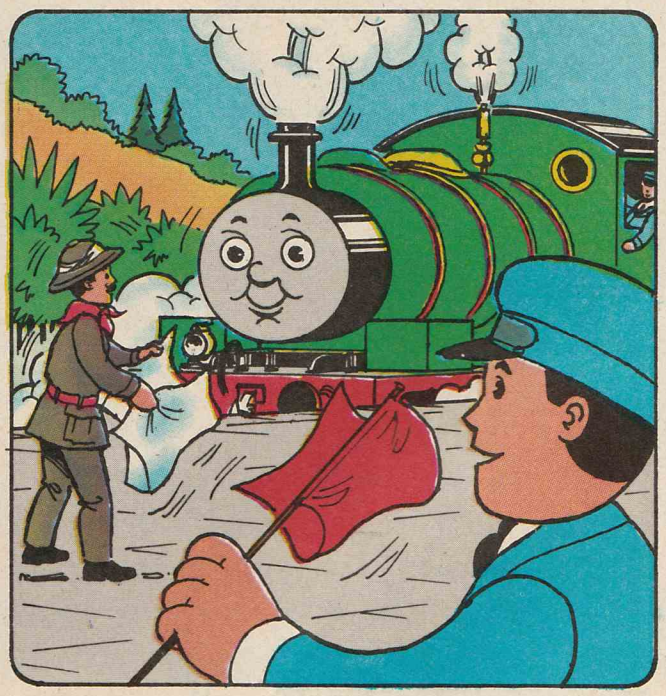
7. Later that afternoon, when Percy was passing, he noticed the man in the park, looking into something on a tripod. "I wonder what he's up to," said Percy.



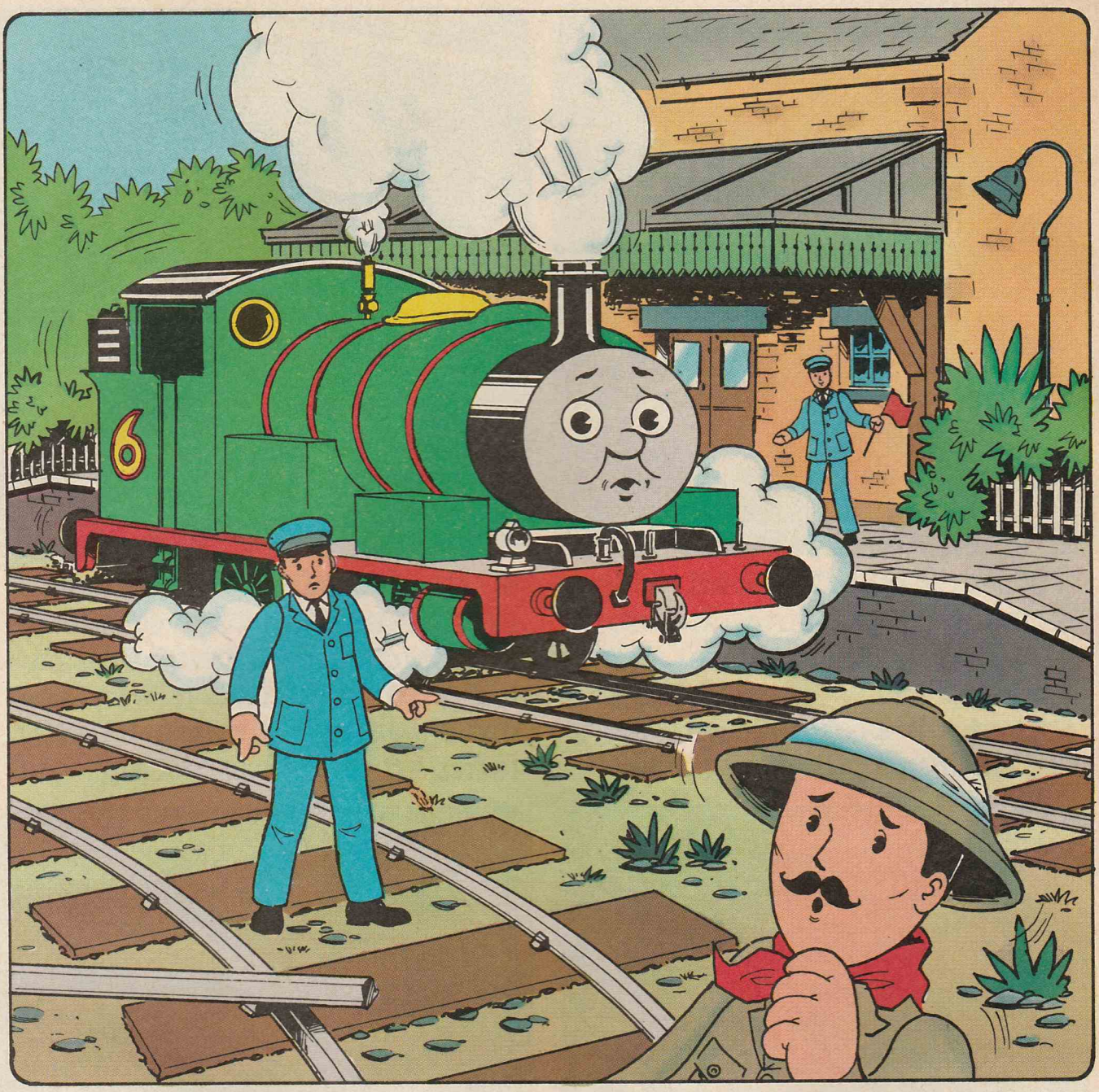
8. "He looks like a surveyor to me," said his driver. "The Park Manager must be planning something." It was the next week before Percy learned what was going on.



9. One day he met the Park Manager holding something rolled up in his hand. He was very excited. "These are the plans," he told Percy. "It's finally happening!"



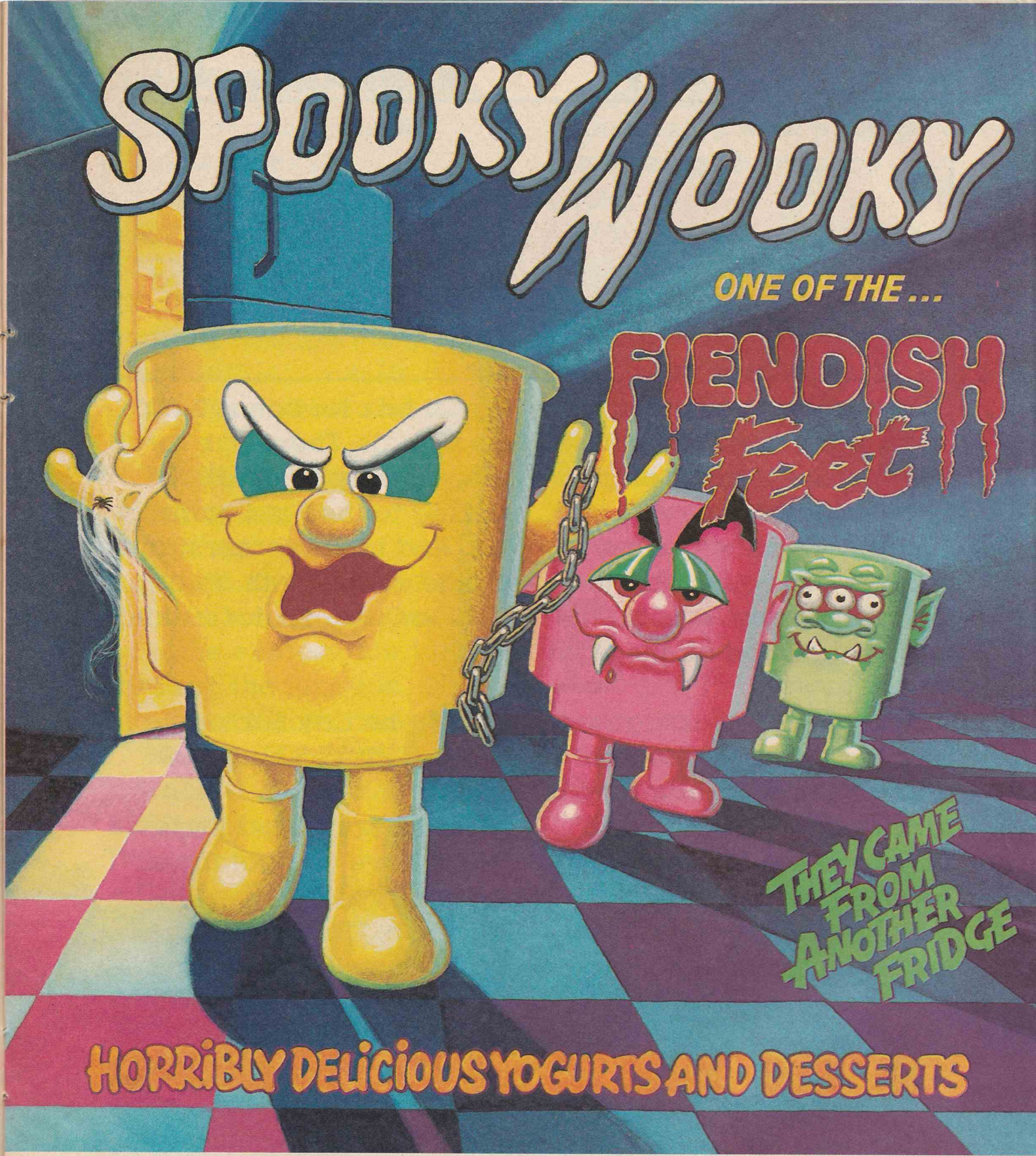
10. "I'm going to build my railway," the Park Manager told him, "And you shall be my engine!" "Peep peeep!!" whistled Percy happily. He could hardly wait!



11. It was like a dream come true for Percy. He would be able to see all the animals and learn all about them. But the park railway wasn't built yet! Soon Henry came pulling a heavy goods train. He was delivering the rails and sleepers for the park railway. The men set to work, clearing the route and began to lay the track.

12. When Percy came by the station, the Park Manager invited his driver to come and have a look. "Oh no," said Percy's driver "Percy can't run on that!" "Why not?" the Park Manager asked. "His wheel base is too wide," the driver said. "That track is narrow guage!" They were all disappointed, but none more so than poor old Percy!

The story continues on page 13!



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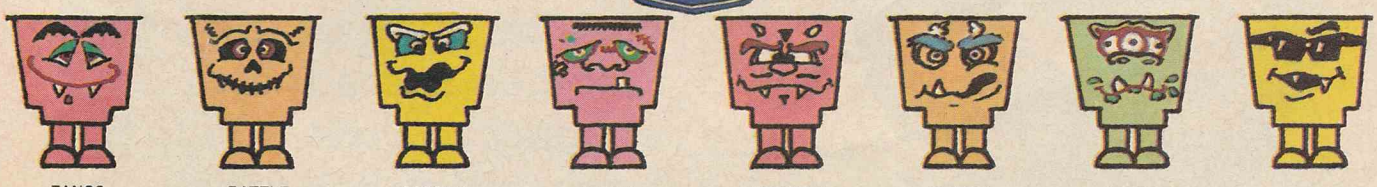

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A read-aloud story!

Tea up!

Bob and Dave are signalmen. They work in the signal box at a big junction on the Fat Controller's railway. They change the points and the signals to make sure all the engines will run on the right rails.

The signal box is high up on stilts. To get to the front door you have to climb up a ladder. This is so Bob and Dave can see all the trains as they come and go.

There are lots of big switches and levers in the signal box for controlling the signals. There is a special telephone for talking to the Fat Controller too. And in the corner stands a little cooker with an old **kettle** on top of it, for making tea.

kettle

One day Bob came in with a shiny new **kettle**

"Hullo, Bob," said Dave. "What have you got there?"

"It's a brand new **kettle**," said Bob. "That other one is very old and look! This one even has a whistle on it."

"That's great," said Dave. "Give it over here, and I'll put it on."

Dave took the kettle and he filled it up with water. Then he put it on the stove. Just then Thomas was coming, so Dave had to rush back and switch the signals.

A few minutes later, he heard a whistle.

"**PEEEEEP!**"

"Tea up, Bob!" he said and went to switch the kettle off.

"Don't be daft," said Bob. "That was only Henry coming through the junction!"

"Oh," said Dave. He sat down again.

"**PEEEEEP!!**" came a whistling again.

"Tea up!" called Dave again. Then he looked out of the window. It was Gordon with the express, hurrying through the junction. Dave sat down again and waited.

"**PEEP PEEEP PEEP!**"

"That kettle sounds just like James, you know," said Dave.

"That's because that is James," said Bob, pulling the lever to change the points.

"You know, Bob," said Dave. "I don't think much of that new kettle of yours. It's certainly taking an awfully long time to boil!"

Bob went over to have a look.

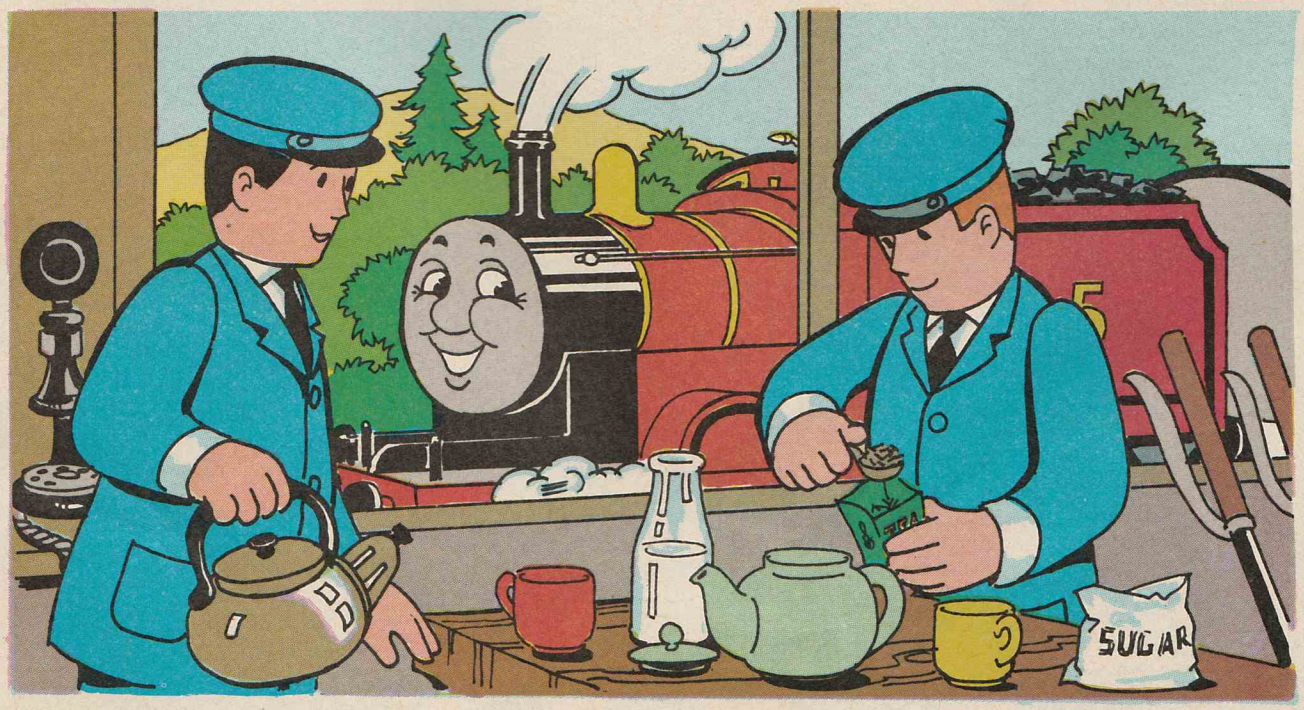
"I'm not surprised!" said Bob. "You forgot to switch the cooker on!"

Bob switched the cooker on and lit the gas. In a few minutes there came a cheery sound . . . "Tweeeep!"

"Tea up?" asked Dave.

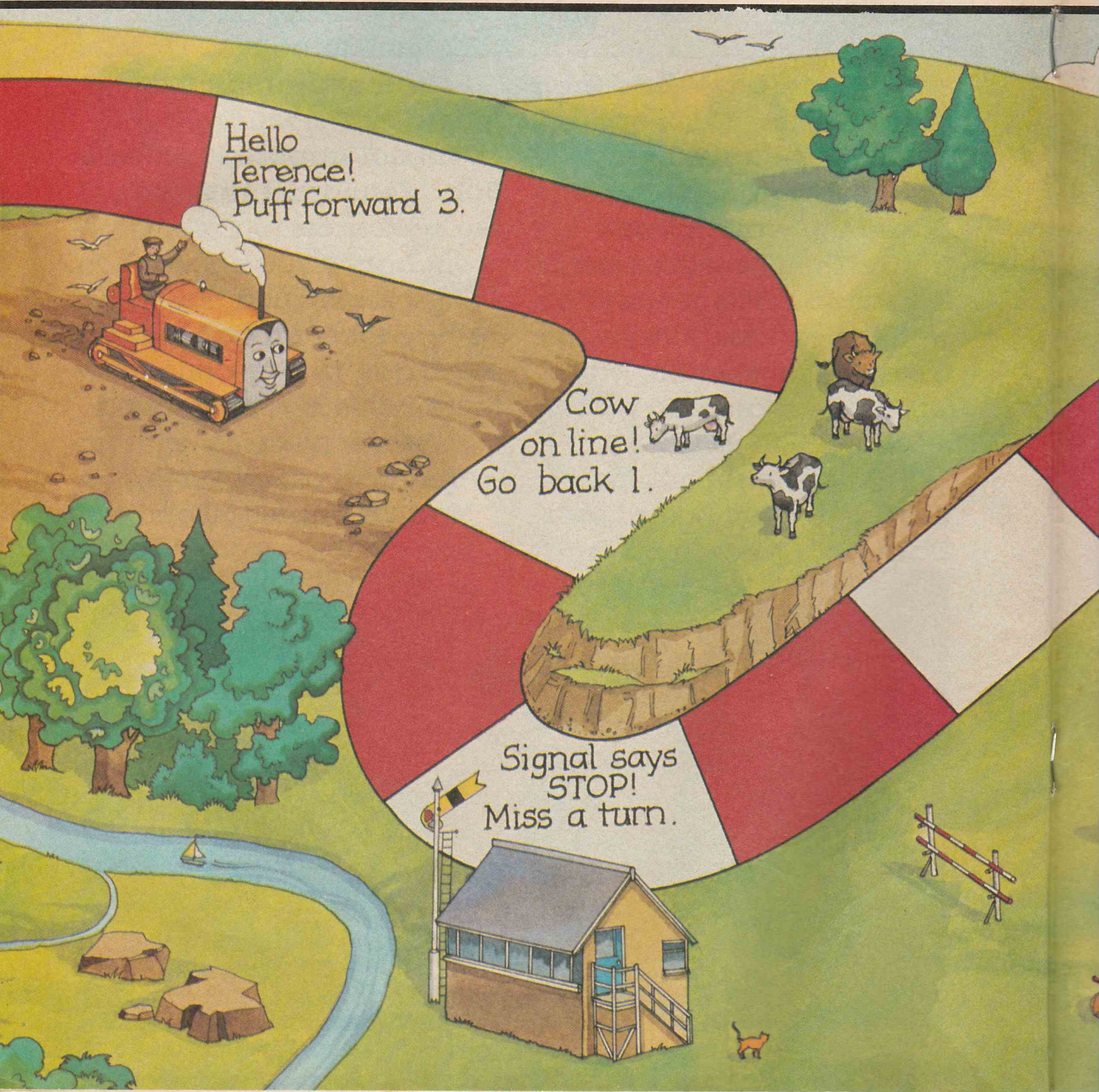
"Tea up," agreed Bob.

THE END



THOMAS'S Game Part 3

This is the third part of Thomas's dice game. You will find the fourth and last part in the next issue of **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends** – then you'll be all ready to play! Stick this double page on to some thin card, cut the blue border off along the dotted lines and cut out your third counter.



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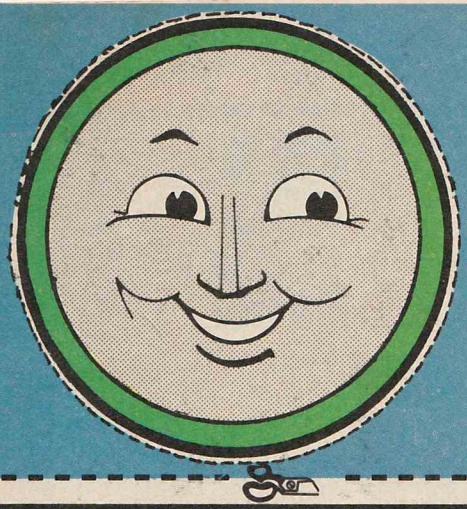
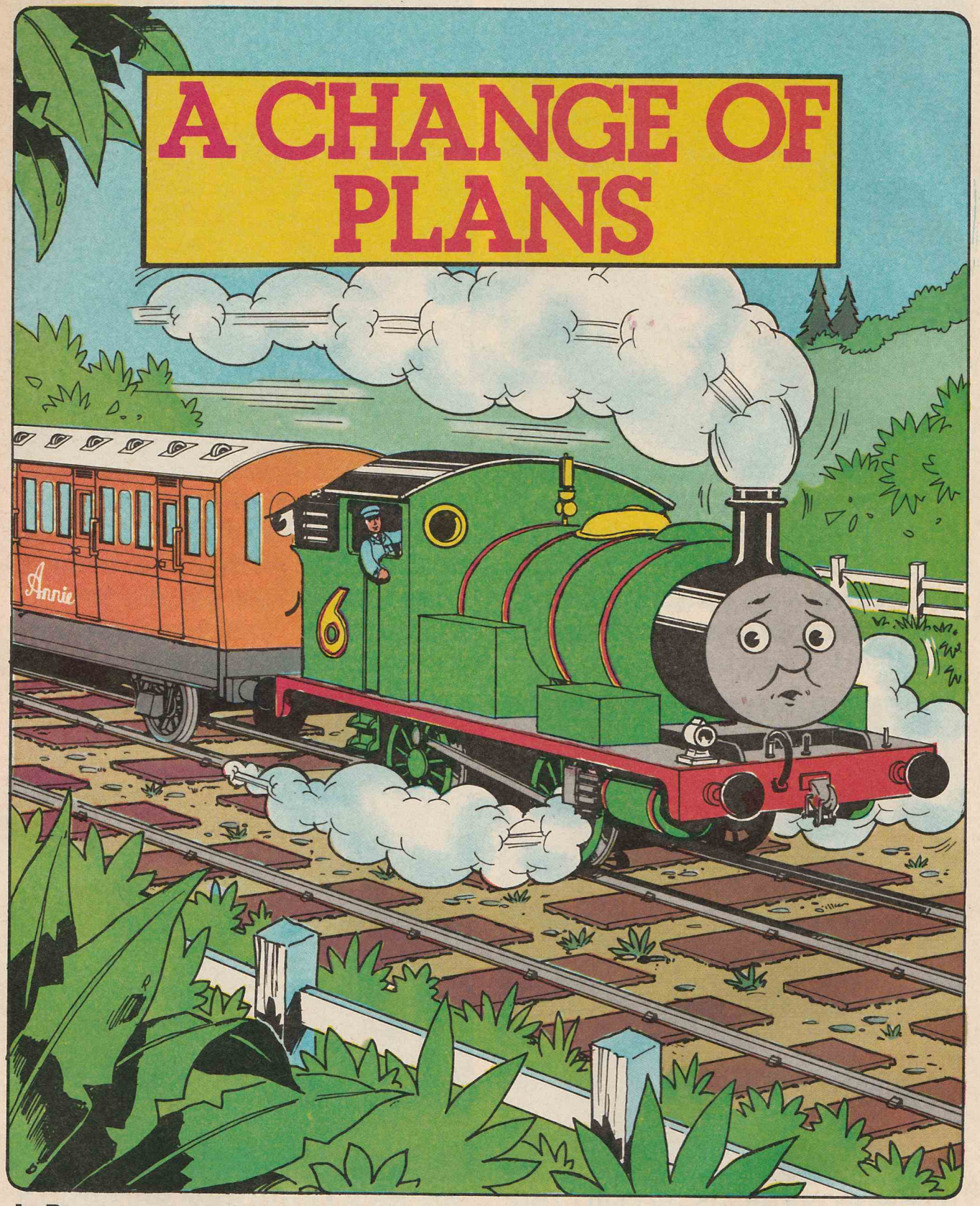


How many cows can you see?
Is a boy or a girl riding the horse?
What colour is the cat?
Point to Terence the Tractor!
Is the signal up or down?
How many motorbikes can you see?

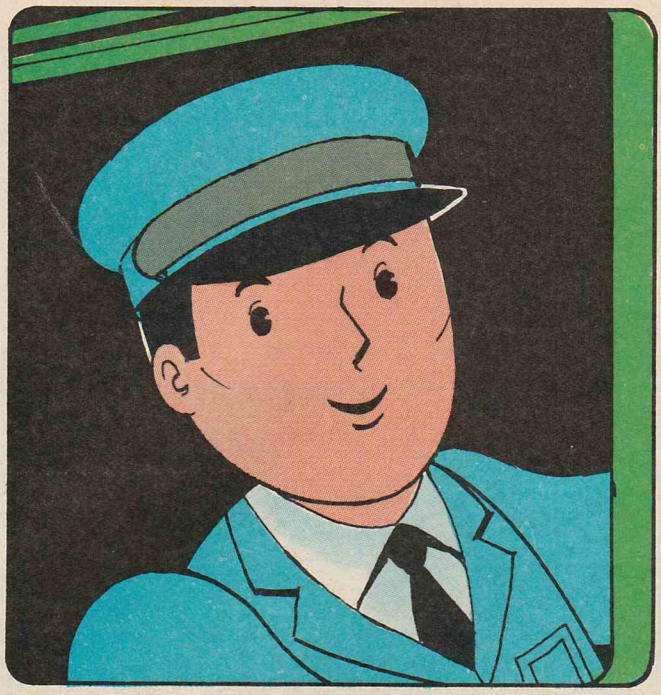
COLOURING TIME!

The story continues!

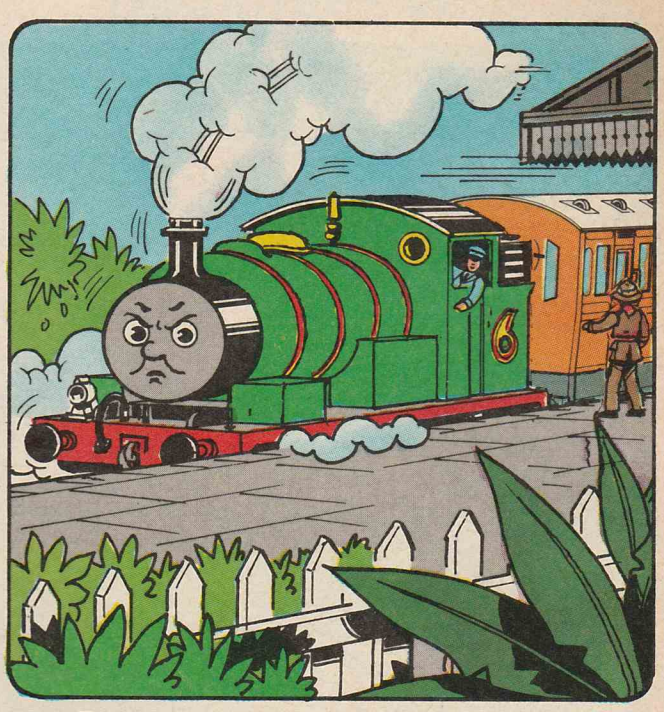


1. Percy was very sad indeed when he learned that the Park Manager had begun to lay narrow guage track in the wildlife park. He wasn't built for narrow guage.

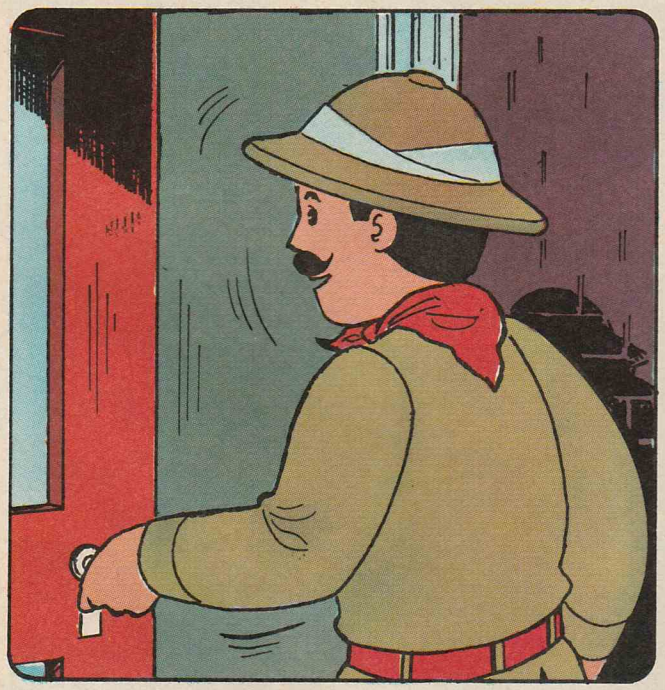
2. "I've no chance of working in the park," moaned Percy. "The Park Manager never even wanted me there, anyhow! I'll bet he planned the whole thing!"



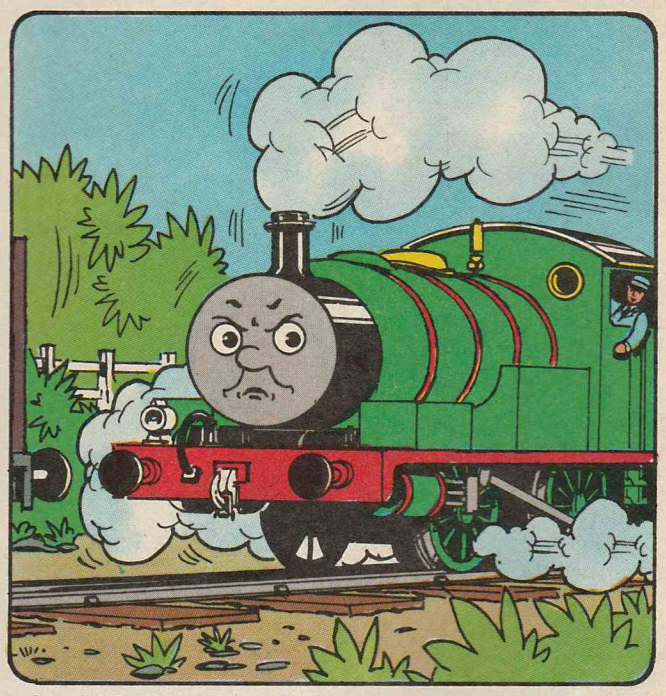
3. "Now now, Percy," scolded his driver. "I don't think that's the case at all. The Park Manager was surprised and very disappointed when he realised about it."



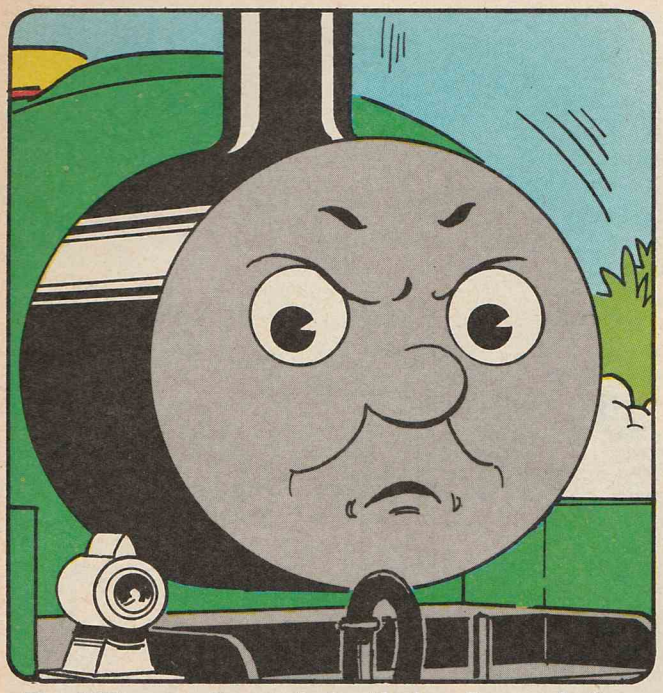
4. But Percy wasn't having any of it. He was in such a mood that he wouldn't even greet the Park Manager at his station. The Park Manager climbed into his coach.



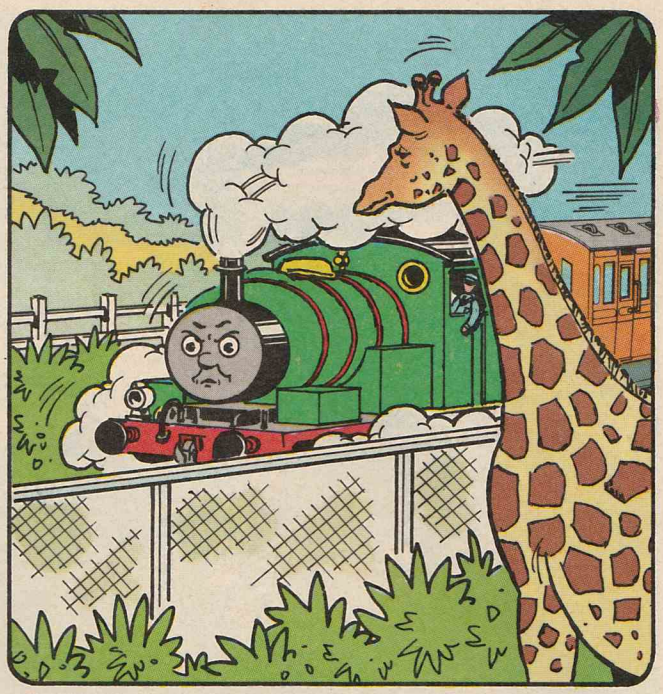
5. He was on his way to the main station to see the Fat Controller, but Percy never let him explain. Percy did notice him going into the Fat Controller's office.



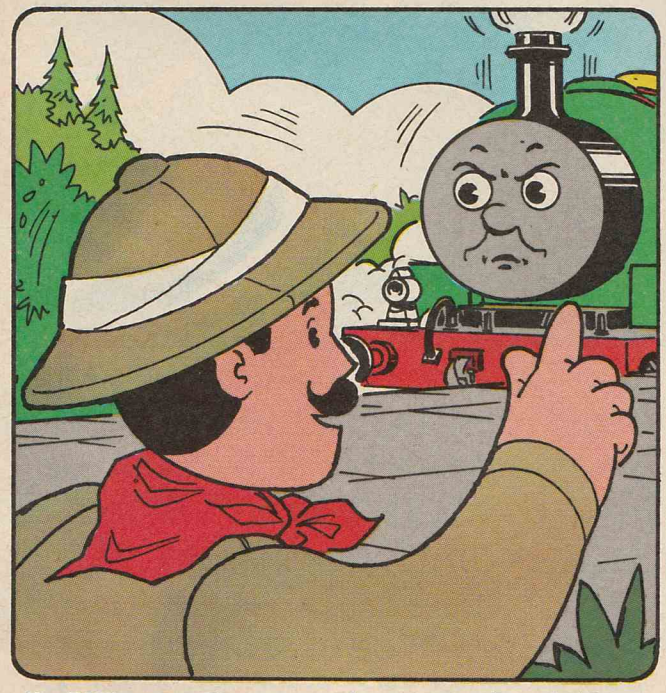
6. "He's probably enquiring about hiring some slippery little narrow guage engine to do the job that's rightfully mine," huffed Percy as he left for the harbour.



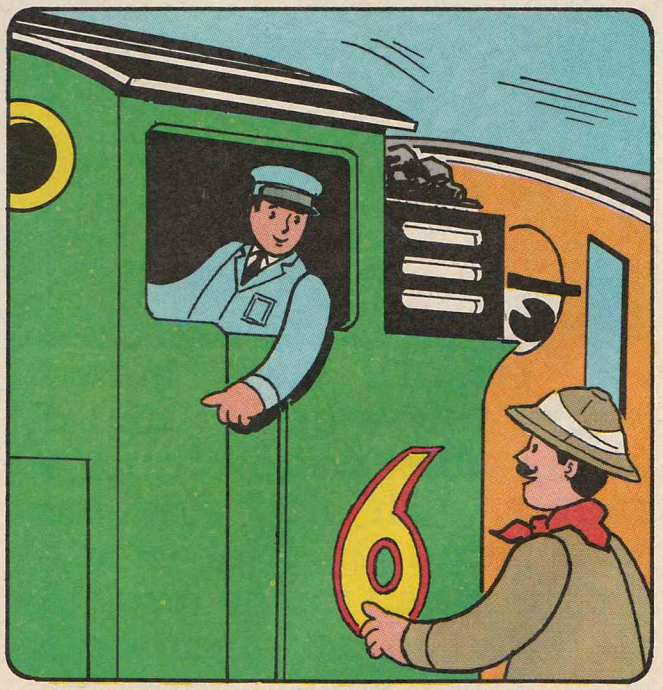
7. "You shouldn't judge him so harshly," said Percy's driver. "He made a mistake. That's all." "Hmph!" groaned Percy. "A likely story!" He gave some trucks a bump.



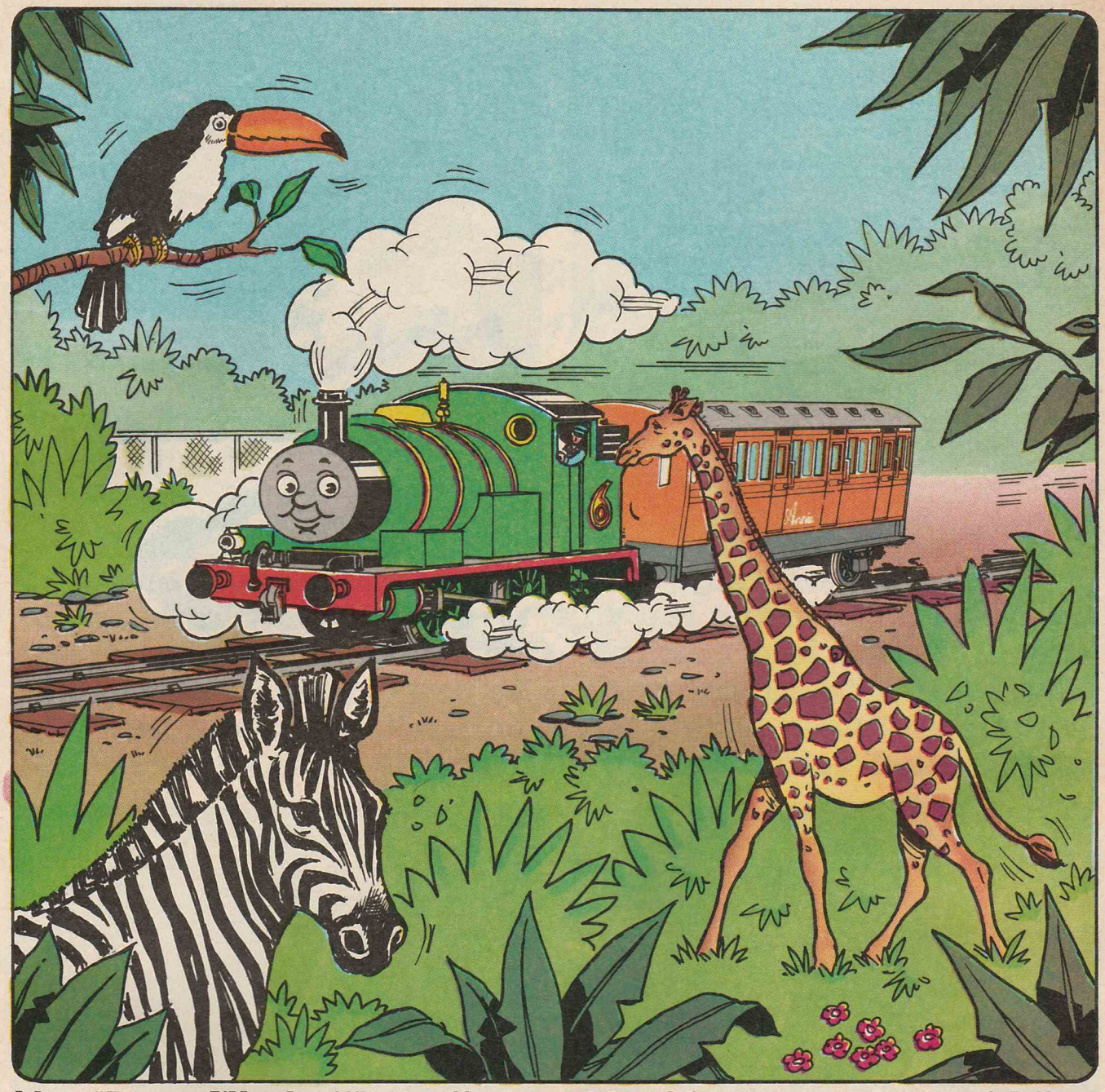
8. A few days later, Percy was passing the wildlife park again. He was still so cross, he couldn't enjoy seeing the animals, not even his two favourite giraffes!



9. When Percy stopped at the station, he heard the sounds of the men working on the track. The Park Manager came over. Percy didn't want to know.



10. "Hullo," said Percy's driver. "How is it going?" "Very well now," said the Park Manager. "With help from the Fat Controller, I've made some changes."



11. "Yes. I'll bet!" huffed Percy. "You've had to find a pokey little narrow guage engine." "Oh, no!" said the Park Manager. "Not at all. I've arranged for the track to be relaid to accommodate your wider wheel base. We were lucky that your driver spotted it so soon. I still want you to be my engine!" "You do?" asked Percy.

12. "Of course I do," said the Park Manager. Percy felt sorry for having doubted his friend. At last, the new track was completed. The Park Manager held a special opening ceremony and Percy was the first engine to run in the park. The Fat Controller let Percy work there every weekend. Percy was very happy indeed.

THE END

In our next issue: It's Christmas!

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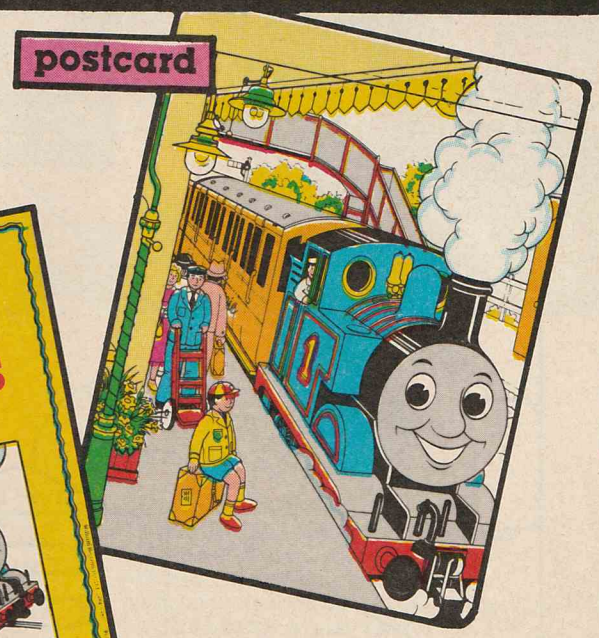

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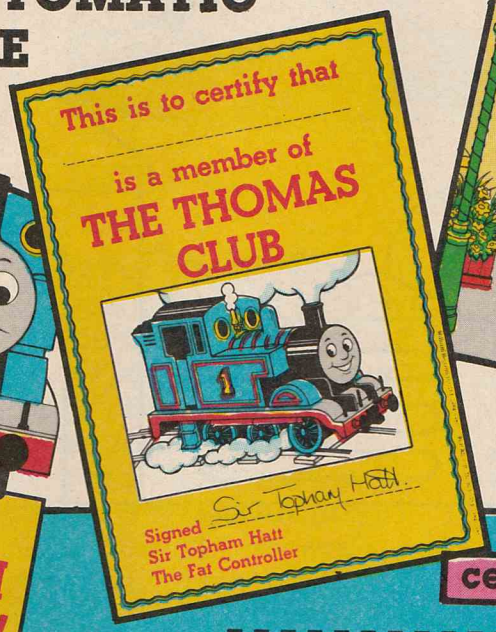

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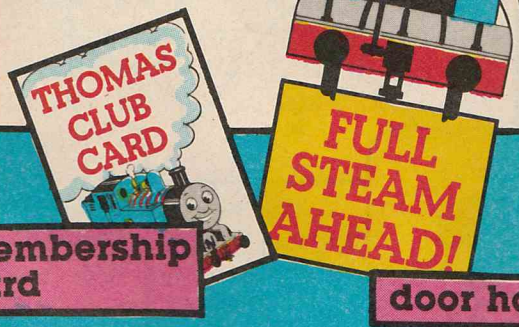

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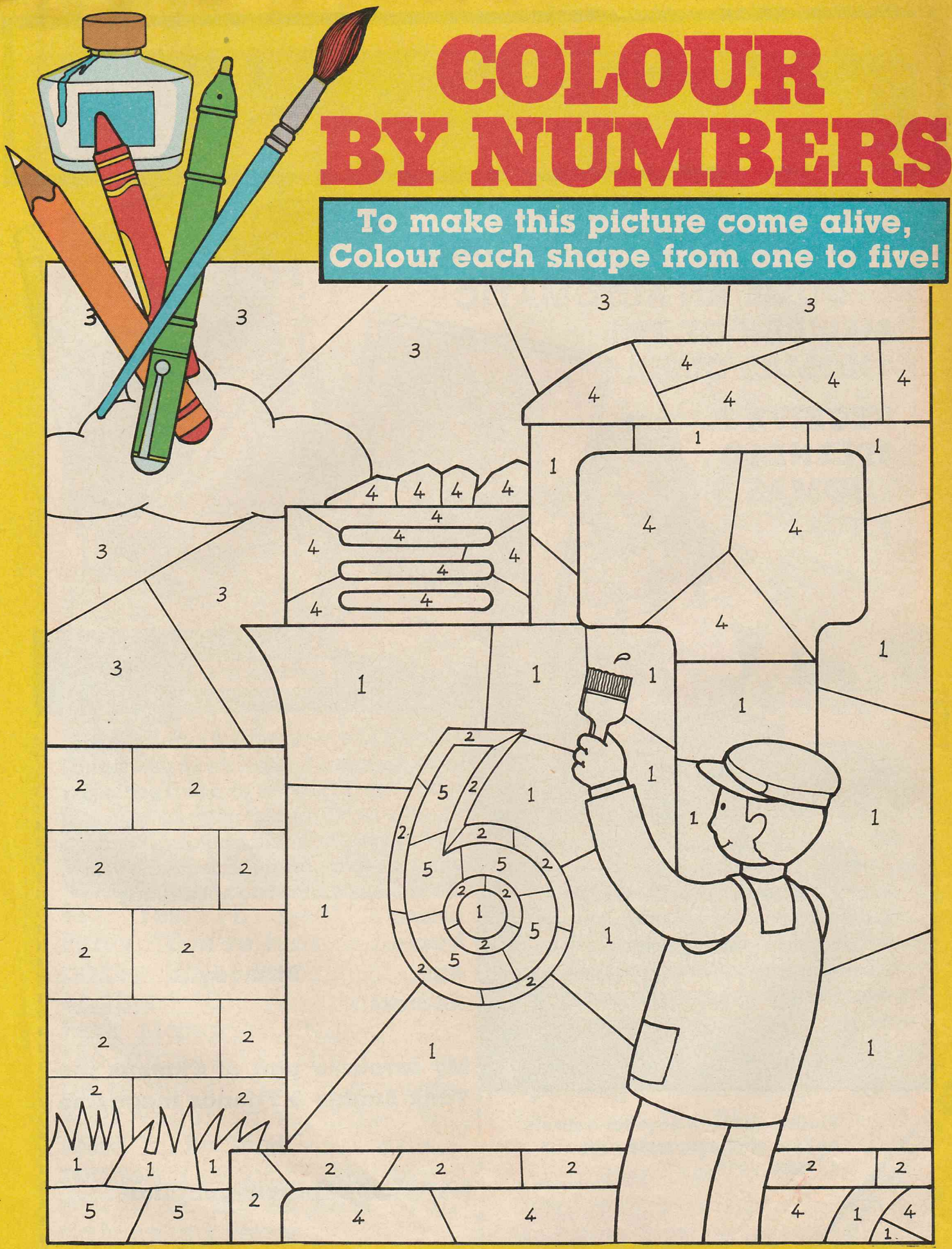
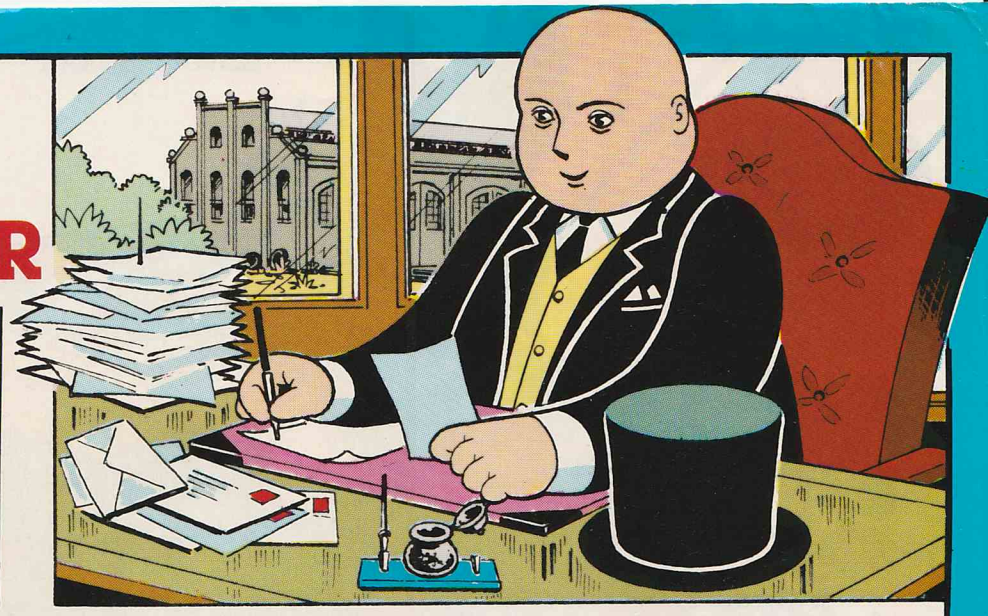


1. Green 2. Red 3. Blue 4. Black 5. Yellow

Write to the FAT CONTROLLER



Have you got an amusing story to tell? Do you have a question you would like to ask about Thomas – or any of the other engines? Then why not write to me at the address below? I should be so very pleased to hear from you!

★★★★★★★★★

STAR LETTER!

Dear Fat Controller,
My daddy builds model steam engines. He has a real train driver's hat and he lets me wear it when I drive the train up and down the rail in his garden.

From **Stuart,** aged 6.

Well, well . . . what a lucky young chap you are. But be very careful not to go too fast now – especially around those sharp bends!

★★★★★★★★★

Stuart wins a splendid Thomas the Tank Engine torch from *Uni-lite Leisure Ltd.*

HOME SWEET HOME!

Dear Fat Controller,
Do you and your wife live inside the main station?

From **Adam,** aged 7.

*No . . . but we **do** live very close to it. In fact, our house is tucked away down a quiet country lane, just a short walk from the main station.*

FEELING POORLY!

Dear Fat Controller,
Who looks after the engines when they are sick?

From **David,** aged 5.

My engines never actually get sick. They do however feel a little tired and weak if they are not treated properly or not given their required amounts of water and coal. In which case they are sent off to Crewe, for a service.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Our very best birthday wishes go out to:

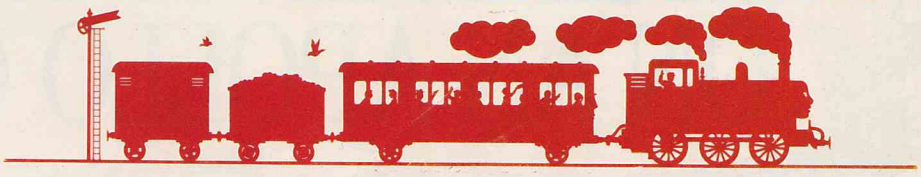
Laura Kate Hardiman, Ben Lafferty (30349), Stuart Stitchell, Michael Bates (28297), Stuart Howell (28050), Joseph Bolton, Christopher Stone (6195), Stuart Hall (8242), Brian Taylor (25127), Andrew Waddington (7542), Matthew Callister, Michelle Simnett, Nicholas Courtnadge, Benjamin Easten (27521), Terry Thompkins, Stuart Winchcombe, Emma Daish, David Swindells (13400), Owen Bell, Kathryn Johnson (5513), Jonathon Mark Brookes, Lianne Wilson (24600), Robert Clarke (26425), Patrick Cronogue, Daniel Fitzhenry (27207), Taieb Sghaier, Matthew Beesley (24139), Neil French (4431), Paul McIvor (30362) and James Tinbrell (28149).

If you'd like a mention, just send details on a postcard please, at least **9 weeks in advance**. We cannot promise to print all the birthdays we receive, but we will try our best!

Yours,

Sir Topham Hatt.

the Fat Controller.



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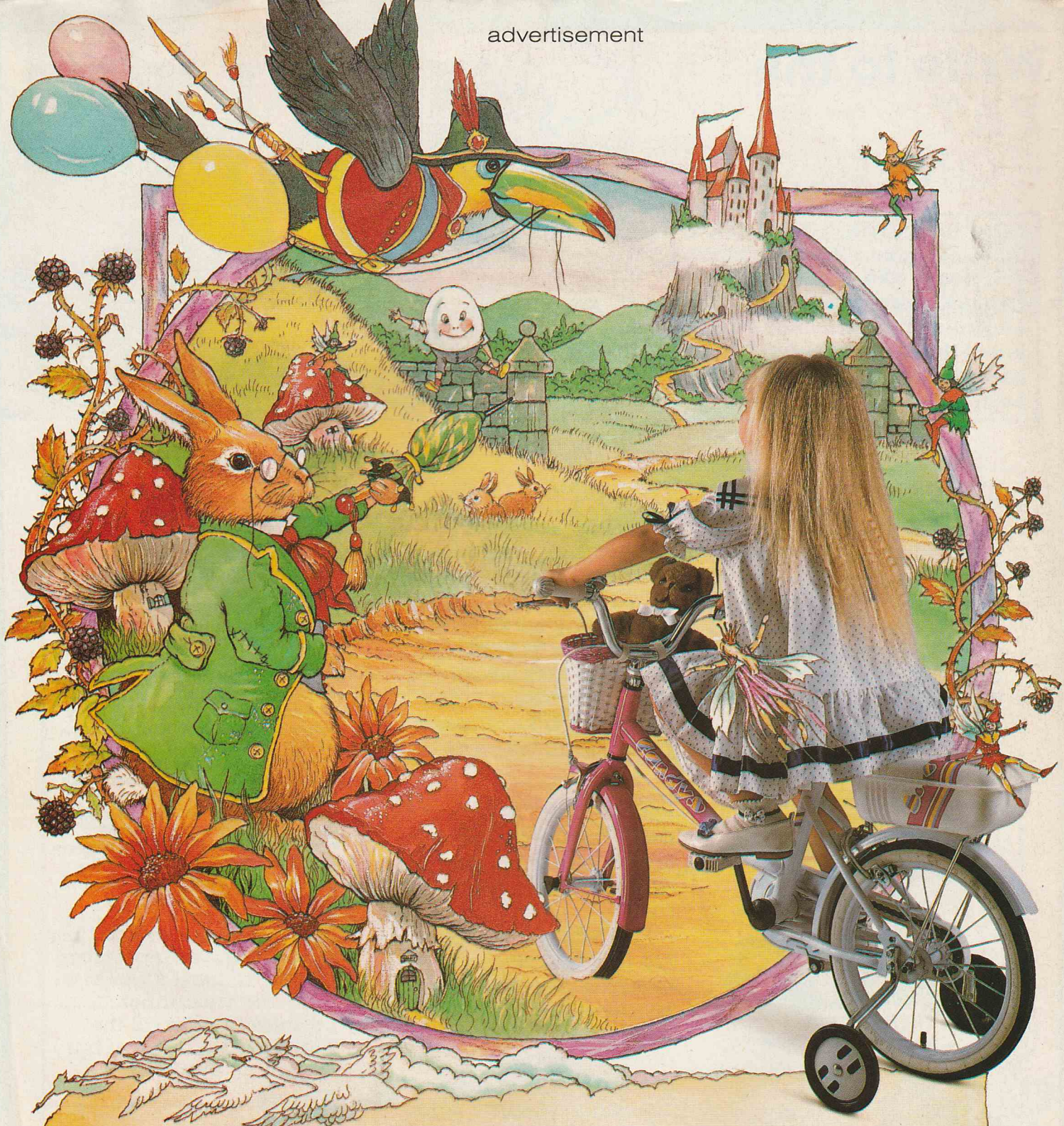

NICE THINGS HAPPEN ON AN APOLLO CANDY

APOLLO

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